19. Mahatma Gandhi Khadi and Gramodyog Samity, Khurda, Orissa.
20. Gopal Samaj Kalyan Pratishthan, Nalanda, Bihar.
21. Mithila Gram Vikas Parishad, Dharbanga, Bihar.
22. KATHA, New Delhi.
23. Navachaitenya Academy for Youth Advancement, Vishakapatnam, Andhra Pradesh.
24. All India Santhal Welfare and Cultural Society, New Delhi.

Scandal in Air India

3978. SHRI JAI PRAKASH (HARDOI) : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government have been drawn to the news-item captioned, 'Air India Ki Amdni Bandhane Ke Naam Par Teen Arab Ki Heraferi Ka Iljam' appearing in the 'Jansatta' dated October 16, 1996;

(b) if so, whether the Government have made any inquiry in this regard; and

(c) if so, the details and outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) Yes, Sir. To minimise distribution costs and financial risks, Air India has decided to review the distribution network in the USA region.

(b) No, Sir. However, Air India Limited has been directed that the selection of the General Sales Agents, if any, being made by Air India, should be done strictly on merit and scrupulously according to the procedure laid down by the Company.

(c) Does not arise.

Stoppage of Profitable Airline

3979. SHRI N.K. PREMCHANDRAN : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) the reasons for the stoppage of the Profitable Airline services viz Thiruvananthapuram-Dubai, Thiruvananthapuram-Abudhabi and Thiruvananthapuram-Muscat:

(b) whether the decision for discontinuing the above flights is proposed to be revived;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken to introduce additional flights to the Gulf countries from Thiruvananthapuram?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) There has been no stoppage of flights from Thiruvananthapuram to Dubai, Abudhabi and Muscat.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

(d) The present air services operations from Thiruvananthapuram to Gulf Countries are adequate to take care of the present traffic requirements.

ILO Funds for Elimination of Child Labour

3980. SHRI B.L. SHARMA 'PREM' : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Ministry has indicated to the International Labour Organisation that it would not need its funds for programmes like elimination of child labour;

(b) if so, the criteria for taking such a decision; and

(c) the funds received from ILO during the last three years, project-wise?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) to (c). As part of the Technical Cooperation programme of the ILO, India has been participating in the Inter-national programme on the Elimination of Child Labour (IPEC) since 1992. For the two biennia, 1992-93 and 1994-95, the allocation for India under IPEC was US $ 3.65 million. The allocation for the year 1996 is US $ 0.5 million.

In addition, the Government efforts to tackle the child labour problem was also assisted through another ILO project viz 'Child Labour Action and Support Programme' (CLASP). Allocation under the project for the year 1992-95 was US $ 0.63 million.

India had conveyed to ILO in 1995 that it would not seek external assistance for elimination of child labour and prefer to depend on its own resources to curb this social evil particularly in view of the budget constraints which ILO was facing. It was further conveyed that the existing approved projects of ILO in India would run their whole implementation period. CLASP has already completed its normal implementation period. As per the Memorandum of Understanding IPEC will continue till December, 1996.

Air India and Alliances

3981. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether his attention has been invited to the news-item captioned "Air-India and alliances, it's a dogfight; and they move in packs" appearing in the "Hindu-Business Line" dated October 8, 1996;

(b) if so, the facts of the matter reported therein;

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(d) the impact of such tie-ups on the growth with equality of the India's national carrier?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. A number of airlines are entering into alliances to increase their market share.